

- sub.c1
a1
1. (Amended) A method of testing a building alarm system, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing plural notification appliances connected to a system controller, each notification appliance having a test status indicator and an alarm indicator;
 - (b) selecting at the system controller which notification appliances to operate; and
 - (c) communicating from the system controller to each selected notification appliance an instruction to operate its associated test status indicator without operating its associated alarm indicator so as to avoid disrupting building occupants.

- sub.c2
a2
5. (Amended) An alarm system comprising:
- plural notification appliances, each notification appliance having a test status indicator and an alarm indicator; and
 - a system controller connected to the plural notification appliances, the system controller in a test mode selecting which notification appliances to operate and communicating to each selected notification appliance an instruction to operate its associated test status indicator without operating its associated alarm indicator.

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8. (Amended) The system of Claim 7 wherein the alarm indicator comprises an audible indicator and a flashing visible indicator and wherein the test status indicator of a selected notification appliance is operated in response to the test alarm input at different rates to indicate whether the audible indicator only, the flashing visible [indicative] indicator only, or both audible and flashing visible indicators are intended to be operated.

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10. (Amended) The system of Claim 5 wherein the test status indicator comprises an LED indicator.

- a5
14. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
- providing plural notification appliances connected to a system controller, each notification appliance having an alarm indicator and a locally-activated test switch;
 - activating the locally-activated test switch of one of the plural notification appliances;

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transmitting a first message from the one activated appliance in response to the test switch activation; and

receiving the first message at the system controller and transmitting to the activated appliance a second message instructing the activated appliance to operate its associated alarm indicator for a test time interval.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein each notification appliance further includes a test status indicator and further including the step of operating the test status indicator of the activated appliance in response to the switch activation for a second test time interval.
16. (Amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein each notification appliance further includes a test status indicator and further including the steps of operating the test status indicators at a periodic rate and extinguishing the test status indicator of the activated appliance in response to the switch activation.
- a⁵ 17. (Amended) An alarm system, comprising:
 - plural notification appliances, each notification appliance having an alarm indicator and a locally-activated test switch, the appliance being programmed to transmit a first message in response to an activation of the test switch; and
 - a system controller connected to the plural notification appliances, the system controller receiving the first message from the activated appliance and in response to the first message transmitting to the activated appliance a second message instructing the activated appliance to operate its associated alarm indicator for a test time interval.
18. (Amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the locally-activated test switch is a magnetic-field sensitive switch.
19. (Amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the locally-activated test switch includes an infrared sensitive switch.